

“Joy in the Midst of Humility”

Philippians 2:1-11

Paradox – Statement that seems to contradict with common sense but is nevertheless true.

Principle: Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.

Twelve principles of pride:

1. It is our greatest enemy.
2. It is demonic and satanic in origin and practice.

“How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the realms of the dead, to the depths of the pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15

3. It is an encouragement to compare ourselves with others.
4. It covets the success of other people.
5. It rejoices in the downfall of others.

“Life would be impossible if it weren’t for the imperfections of others.”

6. It is about me.
7. It is about my glory.
8. It is an expectation for people to obey and honor me.
9. It leads to arrogance.
10. It is independence.
11. It is the “mother of all sin”.
12. It is something we can achieve in this lifetime.

Principle: Pride produces anxiety.

Principle: Pride causes conflict.

How God responds to pride:

1. He hates it

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him.” Proverbs 6:16, 17

“Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” Proverbs 8:13

2. He humiliates proud people.

“Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.” Proverbs 16:5

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18

“God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6

“Therefore clothe yourself with humility, and God will lift you up when he feels it’s the right time.” 1 Peter 5:5, 6

How to walk in humility (12 recommendations):

1. Follow the truth wherever it leads
2. Invite and pursue correction and council
3. Evaluate your strengths realistically
4. Enjoy your successes gratefully
5. Learn from everyone, including your enemies and critics
6. Repent quickly and thoroughly
7. Seek and celebrate God’s grace at work and in other Christians
8. Cultivate his spirit of thankfulness
9. Listen to scripture more than yourself
10. Exalt the name of Jesus in all that you do
11. Serve others unselfishly
12. Depend on Jesus continually

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6, 7